

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (allowed) A jacking tool for removing a die button in a body die comprising:
an elongate substantially cylindrical dowel having first and second ends and an
internally threaded bore extending between and opening at both of said ends; and
a foot integral with said dowel and positioned proximate an end thereof, said foot
having a top face adapted to engage a substantially complementary surface on a die button.

2. (allowed) The jacking tool of claim 1 wherein said bore is internally threaded
substantially along an entire length thereof.

3. (allowed) The jacking tool of claim 1 wherein said foot comprises arcuate
outer faces oriented substantially perpendicular to said top face.

4. (currently amended) The jacking tool of claim 3 wherein ~~a portion of said
foot and a portion of said dowel proximate said second end are volumetrically reduced by burning said~~
top face is oriented perpendicular an orientation of said dowel.

5. (allowed) The jacking tool of claim 1 wherein said bore includes a threaded
portion and an unthreaded portion; and
wherein a diameter of said unthreaded portion does not exceed a distance between
opposed thread grooves in said threaded portion.

6. A method of extracting a die button from a body die comprising the steps of:
forming a step on a substantially cylindrical die button, wherein the step comprises a
substantially planar face oriented substantially parallel with a top face of the die button; and
extracting the die button with a jacking member having a foot positionable against
the substantially planar face.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 6 wherein the step of forming a
step comprises positioning the substantially planar face ~~is located proximate an end of the die button~~
opposite said top face.

8. Please cancel claim 8 ~~The method of claim 7 further comprising the step of:~~
~~positioning a jacking member in intimate association with the die button,~~

~~the jacking member comprising a locating dowel and a foot integral therewith that extends under the step on the die button and engages the substantially planar face.~~

9. Please cancel claim 9~~The method of claim 8 wherein the jacking member comprises an at least partially threaded longitudinal bore in the locating dowel.~~

10. Please cancel claim 10~~The method of claim 8 wherein the bore extends completely through the dowel and opens at opposite ends thereof.~~

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 9~~7~~ further comprising the step of: threadably engaging an elongate threaded member in ~~the bore~~ a bore in the jacking member; and

providing ~~an axial force~~ a force to the ~~dowel~~ jacking member via an interface of threads ~~on said elongate threaded member with threads in said bore, thereby providing a lifting force on on the elongate threaded member therewith to lift said die button via said substantially planar face for extraction of said button from the body die.~~

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the step of providing ~~an axial~~ a force to the ~~dowel~~ jacking member comprises:

exerting an axial pulling force on ~~said~~ a dowel of the jacking member substantially without relative rotation between said dowel and said elongate threaded member.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the step of providing ~~an axial~~ a force to the ~~dowel~~ jacking member comprises:

exerting an axial pulling force on ~~said~~ a dowel of the jacking member by rotating the elongate threaded member relative thereto substantially without relative axial displacement between said elongate threaded member and the body die, thereby jacking the ~~dowel and~~ die button from the body die.

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 8~~7~~ further comprising the steps of:

inserting an elongate member into a bore in the ~~dowel~~ jacking member, and engaging the elongate member therein; and

providing an upward force on the ~~dowel~~jacking member via the elongate member, thereby lifting the die button-~~member~~ from the body die.

15. (allowed) A button assembly for a metal stamping or punching apparatus having a reciprocable punch and a body die, the button assembly comprising:

a button positioned in the body die, said button having a locating groove and a volumetrically reduced region; and

a jacking member engageable with said button, said jacking member comprising a foot that extends into said volumetrically reduced region, and a dowel complementary with said groove;

wherein said dowel comprises a bore extending completely therethrough said dowel being adapted to threadedly receive an elongated member for providing an upward force to said dowel, thereby extracting said button via said foot from the body die.

16. (allowed) The button assembly of claim 15 wherein said foot includes a substantially planar top face and an inner face perpendicular to said top face, said foot further including arcuate outer faces.

17. (allowed) The button assembly of claim 15 wherein an exterior surface of said button defines a first radius, and wherein said foot defines a second radius that is smaller than said first radius.

18. (allowed) The button assembly of claim 15 wherein the button is substantially cylindrical and includes a first end having a shaped recess for receipt of a substantially complementary punch; and wherein

the volumetrically reduce region is located at a second end of the button opposite said first end and is a substantially right-angled step.

19. (allowed) The button assembly of claim 15 wherein the button comprises first and second locating grooves positioned on substantially opposite sides thereof.